

PERINATAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION (PSAP)  
SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES  
MAY 24, 2005

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

John Hiatt, Ph.D.  
Susan Doctor, Ph.D.  
Maria Canfield  
Charlene Herst  
Colleen Morris, M.D.  
Janie Lowe

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Leon Merchant  
Maggie Carlton, Senator  
Terrence McGaw, M.D.  
Beverly Neyland, MD  
T.J. Rosenberg

**STATE HEALTH DIVISION STAFF PRESENT**

Cynthia Huth, MSN, CNM, Health Program Specialist 2, Perinatal Nurse Consultant, Bureau of Family Health Services (BFHS)  
Barry Lovgren, Health Program Specialist 2, PSAP Coordinator, BFHS  
Tami Terstegee, Administrative Assistant 4, BFHS

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Patty Lee, Fast-Trax

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. John Hiatt called the Perinatal Substance Abuse Prevention (PSAP) Subcommittee meeting to order at **9:15 a.m.** at the Washoe County District Health Department (WCDHD), 1001 East Ninth Street, South Conference Room B, Reno, and Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS), 3811 W. Charleston Blvd., Suite 209, Las Vegas, Nevada. This was a public meeting, and the public was invited to make comments. In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, this meeting was posted at the following locations: Bureau of Family Health Services (BFHS), 3427 Goni Road, Suite 108, Carson City; Kinhead Building, 505 East King Street, Carson City; Nevada State Library and Archives, 100 Stewart Street, Carson City; WCDHD, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno; Clark County Health District (CCHD), 625 Shadow Lane, Las Vegas; Elko Nursing Office, 531 Sixth St, Elko; NEIS, 3811 W. Charleston Blvd., Suite 209, Las Vegas; and the Health Division Website: [www.health2k.state.nv.us](http://www.health2k.state.nv.us).

Introductions were made around the table.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING OF MARCH 22, 2005**

Correction: On page 4 of the minutes from March 22, 2005. Dr. Colleen Morris stated she did not attend a Town Hall meeting. She stated there was a report on a Town-Hall meeting presented at a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on (CDC) meeting. This report indicated the Town Hall meetings had been very successful in their communities. Correction: Charlene Herst stated she was present at the PSAP meeting, on March 22, 2005.

Maria Canfield moved to approve the minutes from March 22, 2005 as corrected. Dr. Susan Doctor seconded. **MOTION APPROVED.**

#### **PSAP SUBCOMMITTEE CO-CHAIR REPORT**

Neither co-chair was present at this meeting, so no report was given.

#### **PASP COORDINATOR REPORT**

The PSAP Maternal Reporting Form for the year 2004 was distributed to the Subcommittee. Barry Lovgren pointed out the main findings. First, there were more reports of prenatal exposure to amphetamines than there were of exposure to tobacco. Second, reports of drugs taken in combination with alcohol, and reports of alcohol being taken with amphetamines were exceeded only by reports of alcohol being taken in combination with tobacco. Third, a large portion were placements of homeless children. There was a discussion of the inherent difficulties with information generated by Maternal Reporting Forms, such as reliance upon information provided by the biological parents of a child in placement and inconsistency in reporting by placement agency staff. It was noted for the first time a figure had been made available of the total number of foster placements to provide a context for the number of placements generating a report of prenatal exposure to alcohol and other drugs.

The question was asked of addressing homeless pregnant women who abuse alcohol and other drugs, in specifically trying to identify how many are homeless. It was suggested the number of homeless pregnant women could be obtained by contacting agencies who serve them, such as the CCHD, Economic Opportunity Board (EOB), or The Salvation Army.

Dr. Morris complimented staff on the report and suggested it might be appropriate to issue a press release of the report in the context of the current methamphetamine epidemic in Nevada. During this discussion it was pointed out such a press release would be unlikely to be effective as it could inappropriately result in focus upon methamphetamine exposure during pregnancy, when the broader problem is one of exposure to alcohol and other drugs. Mr. Lovgren announced with the second year funding of the Children's Trust Fund (CTF) grant he was proposing all but \$800 dollars of the funding be used for Non-Commercial Substance Announcements (NCSA). This would be a message on 50 radio stations per month advertising the danger of using alcohol and other drugs during pregnancy and how substance abusing pregnant women can obtain priority admission to treatment. The remaining \$800 dollars will be used to provide training to county and state child social services staff.

Mr. Lovgren reported there are three elements of the current CTF funded project. The first element is sending warning signs to drinking establishments throughout Nevada with tear-offs in English and Spanish telling substance abusing women how to get help. Generally the response from drinking establishments have been positive, but one establishment complained about the photograph of the child suffering from Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) which is illustrated in the placard. Accordingly non-illustrated placards are being printed for drinking establishments to use instead of the illustrated placards if they choose.

The second element of the CTF funded project is transit advertising. Within the next week there should be buses in Clark County with posters on them warning pregnant women of the dangers of drinking during pregnancy and telling those who cannot stop drinking how to get help. Mr. Lovgren reported a contract could not be established for such transit advertising in Washoe County because the transit company would not agree to the contract condition requiring reports.

The third element of the project is proving training to staff at clinical and social services agencies on prenatal substance abuse. Eleven such training sessions have been provided to date, with one to be provided to Catholic Charities after the Subcommittee meeting.

**SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS  
REGARDING FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD) TOWN HALL  
MEETING**

Mr. Lovgren announced the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Center for Excellence is providing technical assistance in developing an FASD State Plan. The Center has stated one element in developing such a plan is to conduct a FASD Town Hall Meeting. The format of such a meeting generally is comprised of a panel, with persons who are dealing with FASDs and testimony. The meeting would need a coordinator. A guest speaker would be a good thing to have and it is important that agency policy makers and families affected by FASDs be in attendance at the meetings. During discussion it was noted the lack of funds need not hinder conducting a meeting since there may be resources for at least minimal funding which would cover lodging expense to a guest speaker, and meeting places can be found in which will incur no expense. Ms. Canfield stated she may be able to obtain a guest speaker through technical assistance provided to the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse (BADA) by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Dr. Doctor noted she will be attending an FASD Center for Excellence meeting in San Antonio in June and she would have access to people who may be able to assist us on how to best conduct a Town Hall Meeting. She wanted some direction in this regard. Dr. Doctor requested Mr. Lovgren to contact her before she goes to the Center for Excellence meeting to discuss what sorts of issues would be need to be addressed.

The Subcommittee agreed the best time to hold a Town Hall Meeting would be during the latter part of October of 2005, and there should be two meetings, one in Reno and one in Las Vegas. Dr. Hiatt pointed out it would be a good idea to try to enlist the support of the Mayor of Las Vegas to support the one in Las Vegas. The Subcommittee briefly discussed, and Dr. Morris moved the PSAP Subcommittee support conducting an FASD Town Hall Meeting in October in South and North and Dr. Doctor seconded. **MOTION APROVED.**

**LEGISLATIVE AGENDA: SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF BILLS DRAFTED FOR  
THE 2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION TO DETERMINE WHICH APPEAR TO BE  
RELATED TO PSAP, AND FOR ANY BILL DETERMINED TO BE PSAP-RELATED,  
DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO BILLS  
AB 221 "REVISED PROVISION RELATING TO SALE AND DISPOSITION OF  
INTOXICATING LIQUOR", SB 296 "REVISES PROVISION GOVERNING ABUSE OR  
NEGLECT OF CHILDREN", AND SB 462 "REPEALS, RE-ENACTS, REORGANIZES  
AND REVISES CERTAIN PROVISIONS RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
RESOURCES"**

Mr. Lovgren stated the Senate and Assembly did not agree on amendments made to AB 221 and SB 296 since their introduction and SB 462 is awaiting the Assembly Ways and Means committee to take action on its amended form.

AB 221: Would revise provisions relating to sale and disposition of intoxicating liquor. Establishes statewide server-training requirements for those serving alcoholic beverages to be consumed on the premises. Requirements are nearly identical to those in affect in Clark County and prohibits counties and municipalities from having their own server training ordinance.

SB 296: Would revise provisions governing abused or neglected children. In its current form it would no longer require a child born with FAS or addicted to drugs must be considered a child in need of protection services, but instead would allow a case- by- case determination and could address only prenatal use of illicit drugs.

SB 462: Would transfer BADA from the Health Division to the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services. Calls for Legislative Committee on Health Care to conduct an interim study included “ An examination of the barriers of pregnant women encounter in attempting to receive appropriate services for the treatment of substance abuse in this State”. No action has been taken on this bill to date.

**SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO STAFF:**

Ms. Herst stated she will be purchasing a dozen copies of the book entitle “Damaged Angels” by Bonnie Buckson after July 1, 2005. This will provide copies to the clearinghouse in the north and to the clearinghouse in the south.

Ms. Herst also announced an upcoming workshop on Federal Grant writing. The date has not yet been finalized. Interested parties should contact Ms. Herst.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION**

No public comments were made. The next meeting will be on July 12, 2005.

Meeting adjourned at **10:45 a.m.**